

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar), Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, today congratulated the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) on the release of their comprehensive plan to end homelessness entitled, *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

“This 19-agency strong collaboration sends a clear message that eradicating homelessness among individuals, families, children, youth, and veterans is a central goal of this government,” Hastings said.

Studies indicate that, on any given night in America, anywhere from 700,000 to 2 million people are homeless. Sadly, the recession has coincided with increases in homelessness, as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, public schools, and local homeless service agencies.

Hastings further noted, “The unfortunate fact is that the State of Florida has the third highest homelessness rate in the country. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, I share the Council’s core mission: ‘Homelessness is unacceptable, homelessness is solvable, and no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.’”

As the most expansive and ambitious plan to end homelessness in our nation’s history, *Opening Doors* will strive to align mainstream health, housing, education, and human services to prevent Americans from experiencing homelessness. The four key goals of the plan are: end chronic homelessness in five years; prevent and end homelessness among veterans in five years; prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years; and set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

“Adequate housing is essential for healthy families and communities,” Hastings said. “I would like to congratulate and thank the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as well as those who worked tirelessly on this plan to ensure that a path is set to end all types of homelessness.”

“The comprehensive nature of the plan is a targeted roadmap that is as achievable as it is impressive. This is a very exciting moment and I look forward to working with the Obama administration to continue coordination on this important cause.”

**For more information on the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, please visit:** [h  
ttp://www.ich.gov/](http://www.ich.gov/)

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*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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